

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated August 23, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on November 23, 2004. Claims 1-32 are pending. Claims 33 and 34 have been added. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Statement of Common Ownership

Applicant submits that *Luick*, U.S. Patent 6,230,260 (hereinafter *Luick*) and the present application were commonly owned at the time the invention claimed in the present application was made.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 1-10 and 24-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant submits, that the claims in their current amended form, particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter presented and respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-8, 11-14, 16-25, 28-29 and 31-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Luick* in view of *Aaker et al.*, U.S. Patent 5,758,087 (hereinafter *Aaker*).

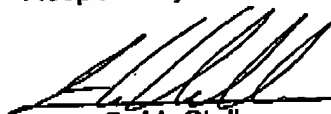
Claims 9-10, 15, 26-27 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Luick* and *Aaker* in view of *Yashiro et al.*, U.S. Patent 5,787,460 (hereinafter *Yashiro*).

As noted in the Statement of Common Ownership above, Applicants submit that *Luick* and the present application were commonly owned at the time the invention claimed in the present application was made. Accordingly, Applicants submit that *Luick* may not be properly cited against the patentability of the claims presented hereby, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 103(c), and request withdrawal of these rejections.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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